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PATENT APPLICATION  
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Arnold Eckhardt )  
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Filed: April 6, 2001 )  
Title: SEALING APPARATUS )  
Group )  
Art Unit: 3728 )

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper was  
delivered to Examiner Steven Weinstein,  
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Office, Washington, D.C. 20231, on this  
date.

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Date

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
ATTENTION: Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This is an Information Disclosure Statement being  
submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 - 1.98 in  
connection with the above-identified application. Most of the  
prior art references cited below were found in two separate  
Search Reports related to corresponding German and PCT patent  
applications. Submitted herewith is Form PTO-1449, a copy of  
the documents cited thereon, a German Search Report dated May  
28, 1999 and a PCT Search Report dated January 12, 2000.

SEARCH REPORTS

German Search Report for Appln. No. 198 46 451.7 dated 28  
May 1999.

PCT Search Report for Appln. No. PCT/EP 99/07437 dated  
January 12, 2000.

U.S. PATENTS

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Inventor</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>
5,584,411	Channell et al.	12/07/1996
3,908,871	Gottwald	08/30/1975

U.S. Patents continued...

3,374,927	P.H. Schmidt	03/26/1968
6,176,285 B1	Gerresheim et al.	01/03/2001

INTERNATIONAL PATENTS

<u>Patent No.</u>	<u>Issue Date</u>	<u>Country</u>
DE 42 23 092 A1	07/14/1992	Germany
DE 36 41 416 A1	12/04/1986	Germany
DE 32 45 938 A1	12/11/1982	Germany
DT 26 09 003 A1	03/04/1976	Germany
FR 12 62 580	10/15/1959	France
DE 196 52 546 A1	12/17/1996	Germany
EP 0 557 913 A2	02/29/1993	Europe
DE 44 37 981 A1	10/25/1994	Germany


The above German and French patents are not in the English language. An English language Abstract has been provided for the above-mentioned German patents only.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required in this application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17 to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b).

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

  
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